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Australian Patent Office
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No. of pages: 10 (including this page)

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: Response to Written Opinion of the International Search Authority for PCT
Patent Application No. PCT/SG2005/000089**

Applicant: Erh, Poh Soon
Title: An Improved Roller for Selectively Applying Paint at
Surface Corners
Authorized Officer: A. Ali
Our Ref.: 1008P005PCT

We refer to the above PCT patent application and the Written Opinion of the International Search Authority dated 24 May 2005.

In response to the Written Opinion, please find enclosed :

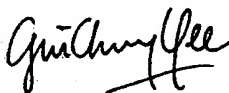
- a. Amendment and Remarks (3 pages);
- b. replacement pages 10 – 12 (marked up pages); and
- c. replacement pages 10 – 12 (clean pages).

We respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application by these amendments.

We look forward to receiving the Examiner's allowance of the amended claims 1 – 11 of the above PCT application. Nevertheless, we request the Examiner for additional opportunities to submit amendments or arguments should the amendments not result in allowance.

Yours sincerely,

LAWRENCE Y.D. HO & ASSOCIATES PTE LTD



Gui, Chung Yee

AMENDMENTS AND REMARKS IN RESPONSE TO WRITTEN OPINION DATED
24 MAY 2005

International Application No.: PCT/SG2005/000089	Applicant: Erh, Poh Soon
Filing Date: 22 March 2005	Priority Date: 8 April 2004
Title: An Improved Roller for Selectively Applying Paint at Surface Corners	Authorized Officer: A. Ali

IN THE CLAIMS

- 1) Claim 1 is replaced by amended claim bearing the same number;
- 2) Claim 4 is replaced by amended claim bearing the same number;
- 3) claim 8 is cancelled; and
- 4) claims 9 – 12 are renumbered accordingly.

REMARKS

In the International Search Authority Written Opinion dated 24 May 2005, the Examiner objects to claims 1 – 3, 6 for lacking novelty and claims 1 – 6 for lacking inventive step. The Examiner further cited the following prior art as having disclosed essential features of the claimed invention:

- (1) US 3933415
- (2) WO 2003/082479
- (3) NL 8301130

Responsive to Examiner's novelty and inventive step objections, Applicant amends claim 1 by incorporating into claim 1, the feature in dependent original claim 8, which is deemed to be novel and inventive.

Amended claim 1 further calls out the limitation of "the rolling guide coacts with a resilient means to permit rotation about an axis of rotation". Applicant thus respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by prior art documents US 3,933,415, WO 2003/082479 and NL 8301130.

It is noted that amended claims 2 to 10 are depending upon amended claim 1. As discussed above, amended claim 1 is not anticipated by the aforementioned prior art documents. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 to 10 are not anticipated by the aforementioned prior art documents.

Applicant further respectfully submits that prior art documents US 3,933,415, WO 2003/082479 and NL 8301130 fail to teach or suggest the claimed feature of amended claim 1 even if they are permissibly combined. Therefore, amended claim 1 involves an inventive step over the aforementioned prior art documents.

It is noted that amended claims 2 to 10 are depending upon amended claim 1. As discussed above, amended claim 1 is not obvious over the aforementioned prior art documents.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 to 10 are also not obvious over the aforementioned prior art documents even if they are permissibly combined.

Responsive to Examiner's notice of defects in claim 4 being not totally clear, Applicant corrects the defect in claim 4 by replacing the word "assessable" with "accessible".

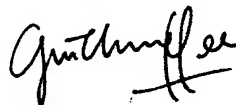
Further to the above amendments, Applicant replaces the word "TITLE" in Abstract page 12 with the title of the application "An Improved Roller for Selectively Applying Paint at Surface Corners".

Therefore, in view of the amendments to the claims and the comments hereinabove, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 to 11, as amended, are in an allowable state.

The Applicant further submits that no new matter has been added to the application by these amendments.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the earlier amended claims do overcome the Examiner's objections. In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application and a favourable response are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 2 August 2005

Gui, Chung Yee

Claims

1. A paint roller for applying paint onto a surface comprising:
a frustoconically-shaped applicator having:
a coupler end;
a distal end;
an external surface between the coupler end and the distal end; and
a paint-absorbable member;
a circular integral guard disposed at the coupler end; and
a rolling guide disposed at the distal end
wherein the rolling guide coacts with a resilient means to permit rotation about an axis of rotation.
2. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the planar cross-section of the coupler end is not the same as the planar cross-section of the distal end.
3. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the frustoconically-shaped applicator further comprising a chamber defined by the coupler end, the distal end and the external surface joining the coupler and distal ends; the chamber further having a plurality of perforations.
4. The paint roller of Claim 3, wherein the chamber is ~~assessable~~accessible by a closable inlet.
5. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the coupler end has a coupler to fit a handle.
6. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the coupler end permits rotation of the paint applicator about an axis.

7. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the diameter of the integral guard is predetermined to allow the circular integral guard to contact the surface only when excessive force is used to apply paint.

~~8. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the rolling guide coacts with a resilient means to permit rotation about an axis of rotation.~~

9.8. The rolling guide of Claim 18, wherein the resilient means is radially-disposed about the axis of rotation of the frustoconically-shaped applicator.

10.9. The rolling guide of Claim 18, wherein the resilient means is held in place by a retainer.

11.10. The rolling guide of Claim 18, wherein the rolling guide permits eccentric rotation of the paint applicator in use.

12.11. A method of selectively applying paint onto surfaces and surface corners, the method comprising:
 using a paint roller comprising a frustoconically-shaped applicator, an integral guard and a rolling guide,
 whereby
 the integral guard prevents a paint-absorbable surface mounted on the applicator from being excessively compressed, thereby preventing an undesirably thick coat of paint from being applied, and
 the rolling guide permits paint to be precisely applied to surface corners and uneven surfaces.

TITLEAN IMPROVED ROLLER FOR SELECTIVELY APPLYING
PAINT AT SURFACE CORNERS

Abstract

[0001] A frustoconically-shaped paint roller to selectively apply paint to surfaces and surface corners is described. The paint roller has a rolling guide that permits the roller to rotate eccentrically so as to accommodate rough or uneven surfaces. A circular integral guide of predetermined diameter is present to prevent the user from applying excessive force when using the roller and squeezing paint from the roller. When used correctly, the integral guide does not contact the surface to be painted. One embodiment of the invention has a chamber to store paint so that the repeated frequent charging of the roller with paint from a can or tray is avoided. FIG. 2 accompanies the abstract.

Claims

1. A paint roller for applying paint onto a surface comprising:
a frustoconically-shaped applicator having:
 a coupler end;
 a distal end;
 an external surface between the coupler end and the distal end; and
 a paint-absorbable member;
a circular integral guard disposed at the coupler end; and
a rolling guide disposed at the distal end
 wherein the rolling guide coacts with a resilient means to permit rotation about an axis of rotation.
2. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the planar cross-section of the coupler end is not the same as the planar cross-section of the distal end.
3. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the frustoconically-shaped applicator further comprising a chamber defined by the coupler end, the distal end and the external surface joining the coupler and distal ends; the chamber further having a plurality of perforations.
4. The paint roller of Claim 3, wherein the chamber is accessible by a closable inlet.
5. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the coupler end has a coupler to fit a handle.
6. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the coupler end permits rotation of the paint applicator about an axis.

7. The paint roller of Claim 1, wherein the diameter of the integral guard is predetermined to allow the circular integral guard to contact the surface only when excessive force is used to apply paint.
8. The rolling guide of Claim 1, wherein the resilient means is radially-disposed about the axis of rotation of the frustoconically-shaped applicator.
9. The rolling guide of Claim 1, wherein the resilient means is held in place by a retainer.
10. The rolling guide of Claim 1, wherein the rolling guide permits eccentric rotation of the paint applicator in use.
11. A method of selectively applying paint onto surfaces and surface corners, the method comprising:
using a paint roller comprising a frustoconically-shaped applicator, an integral guard and a rolling guide,
whereby
the integral guard prevents a paint-absorbable surface mounted on the applicator from being excessively compressed, thereby preventing an undesirably thick coat of paint from being applied, and
the rolling guide permits paint to be precisely applied to surface corners and uneven surfaces.

AN IMPROVED ROLLER FOR SELECTIVELY APPLYING PAINT AT SURFACE CORNERS

Abstract

[0001] A frustoconically-shaped paint roller to selectively apply paint to surfaces and surface corners is described. The paint roller has a rolling guide that permits the roller to rotate eccentrically so as to accommodate rough or uneven surfaces. A circular integral guide of predetermined diameter is present to prevent the user from applying excessive force when using the roller and squeezing paint from the roller. When used correctly, the integral guide does not contact the surface to be painted. One embodiment of the invention has a chamber to store paint so that the repeated frequent charging of the roller with paint from a can or tray is avoided. FIG. 2 accompanies the abstract.